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## *Moles' Mar Image*

# *British Spies*

## *— Tradition*

# *and Scandal*

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LONDON—For generations the British intelligence service was presumed to be the best, duping the Germans in two world wars and fostering a legend that lived in thrillers written by such former agents as Somerset Maugham, Graham Greene, Malcolm Muggeridge and Ian Fleming.

Britain's fictional spy masters were known variously—as "M" in Fleming's James-Bond series, as "Control" in the John Le Carre books. It was Le Carre's George Smiley who searched for a "mole," an enemy agent in place for years in the security services.

Now fiction and truth are mixed up again. A former chief of MI-5, the British counterintelligence service, stands accused of being a mole.

### *Labeled a Traitor*

According to Chapman Pincher, the defense affairs writer of the London Daily Mail, security investigators long suspected that Sir Roger Hollis was a traitor but were never able to prove it. Hollis, who was the director general of MI-5 from 1956 until his retirement in 1965, died in 1973.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has made no comment on the Pincher charge since it appeared Monday in the Daily Mail. She is expected to make a statement in the House of Commons today, and is expected to be questioned closely.

Thatcher also may be asked about assertions made Wednesday by Pincher that a former chairman of the Labor Party, Tom Driberg, was a double agent, reporting to both the Soviet KGB secret police and to MI-5.

### *'Quite Appalling'*

Of the charge against Hollis, a Labor Party member of Parliament, Dennis Canavan said, "If it's true, it's quite appalling."

Such incidents are not unique. Last November, the prime minister admitted that Anthony Blunt, a former MI-5 official and art historian on the staff of Queen Elizabeth II, had been a Soviet spy but was never prosecuted.

Blunt, in turn, was linked to three other notorious British intelligence officers who had served Moscow—Harold (Kim) Philby, Guy Burgess and Donald MacLean.

All these men entered the intelligence service on the eve of World War II, at a time when the services were being rapidly expanded. Many of the young men recruited then were wholly unsuited to intelligence work. Some were known to be homosexuals or addicted to alcohol or both, and thus highly vulnerable to being "turned" by the enemy.

Many others, however, were gifted amateurs who made valuable contributions.

For the most part they were from old and honored families, products of prestigious preparatory schools and the best universities, and because of this there was no thought that any of them could be traitors.

Some of them were involved in the most daring and dramatic of Britain's wartime intelligence exploits, feats that have come to light only bit by bit because of Britain's Secrecy Act. Some examples:

—After the fall of France in World War II, with much of the British army shattered on the continent, British agents conveyed to the Germans a picture of a nation with formidable defenses. This was entirely false, but the intelligence effort helped to dissuade Berlin from carrying out its planned invasion of the British Isles.

—Just before the Allied invasion of North Africa, a corpse in the uniform of a British officer was put ashore in Spain with bogus documents indicating that the landings would not be in Africa but in the eastern Mediterranean area. The information was passed along to the Germans, as London hoped it would be, and the landings were carried out with relative ease.

—Throughout the war, in an operation called "Double-Cross," the British fed Berlin masses of false information by means of German agents in Britain who had—unknown to the Germans—been turned.

### *Top Reputation*

By the end of the war, British intelligence had established a reputation second to none.

In the popular imagination, intelligence is espionage, the dangerous and romantic, if sometimes sordid, business of spying. Yet espionage is only a small part of intelligence, which consists in the main of collecting information available to anyone—from newspapers and magazines and technical and scientific publications.

Further, no intelligence has any real value until it has been analyzed and interpreted and put into the hands of people who can use it.

Everybody does it. The United States has the CIA, known for its financial resources and scientific expertise; the Soviet Union has the KGB, or State Security Organization, which probably spends as much as the CIA; France has the Deuxieme (Second) Bureau, which is well thought of but concentrates on areas of French influence, former colonies in Africa, the Middle East and Asia; Israel has the Mossad, which is considered to be among the world's best intelligence services.

Traditionally, in Britain as elsewhere, intelligence operations are surrounded by secrecy. Chiefs of the intelligence services are not publicly identified; it is not even admitted that such services exist. As with the CIA, the budget for Britain's intelligence services is generally disguised, buried in the budgets of other ministries—the Home Office, the Foreign Office, the Ministry of Defense.

But now the secrecy is beginning to unravel, especially in light of disclosures that it has been penetrated by British-born Soviet agents.

MI-5, more formally known as the Security Service, is Britain's "spy-catcher"—a counterintelligence service somewhat analogous to the FBI in the United States, although MI-5 is not a law enforcement agency.

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